

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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INTRODUCTION

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2. The city had a population of 600,000 in 1952. These were mostly Russians, but there were some Tatars, Kalmyks, Uzbeks, and many nationals, including Koreans. No antagonisms existed among these people.
3. I estimate the birth rate to have been about 13 per 1,000 in 1952. The usual number of children per family was one or two. I do not know what the death rate was, nor the infant mortality rate, nor the five leading causes of death.

FOOD

4. Prior to July 1952, food was in very short supply, but conditions improved somewhat after that time. The average diet was potatoes, bread, and cabbage. Margarine or sunflower oil was used for fat. Tea and sugar supplies increased in the last year.

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25X1A

SECRET

25X1A

-2-

Tomatoes were scarce and a tomato paste was sold in the stores in a large container. Fruits, e. g. apples and pears, were not available. Many vitamin preparations were sold in the stores, probably because of the belief by the authorities that the people's diet was vitamin-deficient. Rye and wheat flour were used to make bread. Mixed black and white breads were also available.

5. Unpasteurized milk was available. Pasteurized milk in bottles was sold infrequently on the market. Yogurt was also sold. Fresh and salt water fish were available in large variety and sold salted or from ice-packed containers. Meat, particularly lamb, was scarce. Poultry was sold but was very expensive.
6. Food shops were generally quite clean. There were three classes of restaurants in Sverdlovsk. The first-class restaurant was very clean, and the food was quite good. The city had only five or six such restaurants. The second-class restaurant was not as clean as the first and was usually a tea- or snack-room. The third-class restaurant was dirty, non-hygienic, and generally of low quality. Food outlets were controlled by the public health officials, and severe inspections were maintained.
7. A large amount of alcohol was consumed by the average worker, who spent about thirty percent of his salary for drinking. There was very little alcoholism to my knowledge.

MEDICAL FACILITIES.

8. Hospitals were clean, but food was poor, and relatives or friends of the sick patient usually sent food to the hospital for the patient. In general the quality of medical care was poor. 25X1A
25X1A I noticed that such inflammation of the eyes was frequently found, and I attributed it to the raw climate and dust-laden air. There was no shortage of available physicians. The more serious cases were usually sent to the university institutes rather than to the non-university hospitals. 25X1A
9. The Ural Elektroapparat Zavod #659, [] employed about 5,000 people. These workers were furnished medical care at a medpunkt, a medical section located in six or seven rooms. This section was staffed by three doctors, a dentist, and six nurses. Work was carried on in three shifts, and a physician was on duty during two of these shifts; for the third a feldsher (medical assistant) was available. Dental care, roentgen treatment, consultation, and laboratory service were obtainable.
10. Elmash had a polyclinic located in a two-story, 24-room dwelling, staffed by twelve specialists who worked on two shifts. In addition, Elmash had a maternity home, a children's hospital, a tuberculosis dispanser, a dental prosthesis clinic, and a drug store.
11. Within Sverdlovsk medical care was furnished by several hospitals, university institute clinics, a better-than-average dental prosthesis clinic, and a Physiological Institute. I knew of no severe shortage of beds, despite occasional waiting.

SECRET

SECRET

-3-

25X1A

Less serious cases were required to wait for bed space. I do not know of any special hospitals for infectious diseases.

12. Polyclinics in Sverdlovsk were set up according to location; there were about twelve to fifteen rayons in the city, and each rayon had two or three polyclinics. These were generally primitive with respect to equipment and supplies. I was never in a clinic of this type, but believe that they were reasonably clean.
13. Each section of the city had a health commission which maintained official control of public health affairs. I believe this group took care of water analysis, and preventive health measures, such as immunizations. The city also had a health commission which was on a higher level than the section commissions. There were no feldsher-midwife stations in the city sub-sections.

SAFETY MEASURES

14. One of the university institutes gave workers in mercury-handling shops a semi-annual physical examination. If symptoms of mercury-poisoning were found, the worker was sent to a sanitarium for a cure. Air samples were taken from the mercury-handling shops to check contamination. Mercury-handlers were given extra milk and butter rations and soap for washing their bodies.
15. The plant had no safety "engineer", but, instead, a Zavkom, or factory committee, was expected to police the shops to prevent hazardous work habits. This committee was composed of salaried employees, but did not include a physician. Safety habits were very noticeably absent. Sand-blasting work caused frequent cases of silicosis, and no remedy was ever suggested. A considerable bulk of paper regulations existed, but no positive action was ever taken to avoid dangerous activities.

MEDICAL SUPPLIES

16. I neither saw nor heard of a penicillin plant in Sverdlovsk. Penicillin was easily obtained, and was available as a solution, in yellow powder, or tablets. Most pharmaceuticals were in short supply. No shortage of medical equipment existed to my knowledge. The city had a medical supply house in the center of town. Laboratory diagnosis was usually performed at the university institutes.

BACTERIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL WARFARE

17. I have no information on these subjects. I heard considerable anti-American BW propaganda, but can give no information on the Soviet purpose for this propaganda. I have not heard of a blood donor program in Sverdlovsk, and no propaganda to encourage blood donations was observed.

MEDICAL TRAINING

18. Sverdlovsk has a university for training medical personnel, physicians, nurses, dentists, pharmacists, and veterinarians. I do not know if there is a school for training feldshers in the city. I have no further information on the training at the university. I know nothing about military medical activities in the area.

SECRET

SECRET

-4-

25X1A

DISEASES

19. In 1951 there were several cases of typhus, and the authorities set up very strong control measures. Citizens were subjected to delousing, and railroad travel was permitted only to those who had a ticket showing that they had been deloused. Influenza recurred regularly in epidemic form. Tuberculosis was very widespread. Control stations, or tuberculosis ~~dispensary~~ were set up in the city, usually several for each rayon. I do not have statistical information on the occurrence of tuberculosis or other diseases.
20. Venereal disease rate was probably not high. I never heard of any cases, and I know of only one VD prophylactic station in the city. Those who contracted a venereal disease were probably not punished.
21. Dysentery occurred during the summer period, and I myself suffered from it at that time. The Soviet citizens were resistant to dysentery, and gave no heed to the quality of water which they drank; they even drank from puddles in the streets.
22. To control typhoid fever, inoculations of vaccine were administered yearly. Smallpox did not occur, and immunization was performed every seven years. I heard of no cases of plague, or of tularemia. There was no malaria in Sverdlovsk. Infectious hepatitis occurred, but only infrequently. Poliomyelitis epidemics occurred yearly. I heard that an epidemic broke out in the spring of 1952. This disease was found in Sverdlovsk before the war, and caused several deaths in the city in 1936.

WATER SUPPLY

23. The center of Sverdlovsk utilized wells and a piping system to supply water to the inhabitants. Some of the city's water was obtained from a lake in the western section of the city. Elmash received its water from the central system. About eighty percent of the inhabitants obtained their water not from the central system, but from hydrants located at central points in the city. The water supply was chlorinated. In addition it was common practice for the foreigners to boil water before drinking it. Despite signs which read "Do not drink unboiled water!", the Soviet citizens never boiled the drinking water. There was always sufficient water, even in summer, to meet the city's needs.

WASTE DISPOSAL

24. Elmash had a sewage disposal system, as did the central part of Sverdlovsk. Sewage was discharged untreated into the Iset River, which flowed through the center of the city. Sewage in Elmash was passed through a settling basin before pouring into the river. Other sections of the city, outside of the city center, used outdoor latrines. I do not know how wastes were removed, but do not believe that these were used as fertilizer.
25. Garbage was discarded into a "pyramid" receptacle placed in front of each house. This garbage was removed about three times a year, usually in the warmer months, but never during the winter.

SECRET

SECRET

-5-

25X1A

ANIMALS

26. The city was plagued by rats and mice, and the authorities distributed rodent poisons to the people to combat the animals. There were many cats and semi-stray dogs. Because of the swampy land around Sverdlovsk, the area had many mosquitoes, but not anopheles mosquitoes. Flies were almost a plague in numbers; there were also many bugs and fleas, but few lice. DDT was available in stores, but was not purchased by the people. The struggle against insect pests was never taken seriously. Because of the long winter there were very few reptiles and no poisonous snakes in the area. Also because of the cold there were very few wild animals. Wolves and bears were occasionally seen, but no deer or elk. I have no information on poisonous fish in the region.

PLANTS

27. A ginseng plant which grew in the area was poisonous, and I recall that two children died after eating the root of this plant.

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